

*Stated Meeting, November 17.*

Present, twenty-two members.

Dr. BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was received from H. J. Bowditch, Esq., Clerk of the Bowditch Library, dated Oct. 28, 1843, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, No. 27.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Vol. I. Nos. 30, 31. September and October, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Academy.*
- The African Repository, and Colonial Journal. Vol. XIX. No. 10. October, 1843. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Pantography, or Universal Drawings, in the Comparison of their Natural and Arbitrary Laws, with the Nature and Importance of Pasigraphy, as the Science of Letters, &c. By Benajah J. Anttrim. Philadelphia, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- The United States Almanac; or Complete Ephemeris for the Year 1844; By John Downes: The Statistical Part by Freeman Hunt. Vol. II. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From John Downes.*
- De Skandinaviske Naturforskeres tredie Möde, i Stockholm i 1842. Christina, 1842. 8vo.—*From Dr. Hays.*
- Förhandlingar vid det af Skandinaviska Naturforskare och Läkare hållna möte i Götheborg år 1839. Götheborg, 1840. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- A Lecture on the Oregon Territory. By Peter A. Browne, LL.D., of Philadelphia. 1843. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Remarks on Tides, and the Prevailing Currents of the Ocean and Atmosphere. By W. C. Redfield. From the American Journal of Science and Arts. Vol. XLV. No. 2. 8vo.—*From the Author.*

ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences. Tome XVII. Nos. 8 to 11, inclusive. 4to.

Mr. Kane announced the death of Col. John Trumbull, a member of the Society, who died recently at New York, aged 87.

Professor Bache presented observations of meteors on the mornings of the 12th and 14th of November, from midnight until 2 A. M., those having been the only clear mornings from the 9th to the 17th of the month. He submitted also some observations made by him in conjunction with Mr. Espy, for the parallax of meteors on the night of the 14th; the evening of the 13th having been so cloudy as to prevent observations. The numbers were below the ordinary average for a clear night.

Mr. G. W. Smith had also made observations on the nights of the 12th, 13th, and 14th, with results corresponding generally to those of Prof. Bache.

Dr. Hays gave an account of a case of spontaneous combustion, which occurred in a heap of Virginia coal lying in the yard of the Northern Liberties gas works, soon after a fall of rain. Dr. H. exhibited specimens of the coal partially converted into coke, and adverted to the circumstances under which the combustion had occurred, which justified the conclusion that it was spontaneous.

Dr. Patterson mentioned a work executed by Dr. Joseph Rhoads, at the farm of his father at Haverford, near Philadelphia, for procuring a supply of water for the house, which he thought might be imitated in many other situations. There were wells at the house and barn, cut through rock, and thirty-five feet deep. It occurred to Dr. Rhoads that water might be found, higher up the hill, at such a level as to give a supply at or above the level of the house itself; and he fixed, for this purpose, upon a bed of sand at the side of the road. Here he found water at the depth of five feet, and an abundant supply by digging seven feet deeper. From this source the water was conveyed to the house, at such a height that it might have run into the mouth of the old well, and it furnished a constant stream of a gallon per minute. The water in the old well was hard, that from the new source, soft. The whole cost of the operation was but thirty-five dollars.

Dr. Hays exhibited a piece of iron, weighing fifteen grains,

which had been extracted by him from the eye of a man, who was ignorant of its having entered it. The presence of some foreign substance in the ball of the eye was inferred from the constant inflammation kept up in the organ.

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*Stated Meeting, December 1.*

Present, eighteen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, Vice President, in the Chair.

Letters were received:—

From the President of Harvard University, dated Oct. 18, 1843, acknowledging the receipt of No. 26 of the Proceedings:—

From William B. Rally, Esq., dated Baltimore, Nov. 20, 1843, on the subject of a proposed scientific correspondence between the Royal Academy of Bohemia and this Society:—

From Sir William Jardine, dated Jardine Hall (Scotland), Oct. 28, 1843, in regard to his work on the Scottish Salmonidæ.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Journal Asiatique. Quatrième Série. Tome I. Nos. 5 et 6. Mai et Juin, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Asiatic Society of Paris.*

Annales des Mines. Quatrième Série. Tome III. 1ère Livraison. Paris, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Engineers of Mines.*

Transactions of the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. III. Part I. Philadelphia, 1843. 8vo.—*One copy presented by Samuel Breck, Esq., and one copy by Job R. Tyson, Esq.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Vol. VI. Nov. 1843. 8vo.—*From Dr. R. M. Patterson.*

The African Repository, and Colonial Journal. Vol. XIX. No. 11. November, 1843. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of all Nations, struck within the